11621.e.4.13
13

THE Bloody Tragedy;

OR,

A DREADFUL WARNING TO DISOBEDIENT CHILDREN.

GIVING

A ſad and dreadful Account of one JOHN GILL, in the Town of *Oborn*, in *Bedfordſhire*, who lived a WICKED LIFE.

How, coming home drunk one Night, he aſked his Father for Money to carry on his Debaucheries, who putting him off till next Morning, he grew ſo impatient and deſparately wicked, that he aroſe in the Dead of the Night, and cut his Father and Mother's Throats in their Beds.

How afterwards binding and raviſhing the Maid Servant he murdered her alſo, and then robbed the Houſe of Plate and Money, and ſet it on Fire, burning the dead Bodies to Aſhes.

With the Manner of the Diſcovery, and being apprehended, what Confeſſion he made before the Magiſtrates.

How the Ghoſts of the dead Bodies appeared to him in Jail.

Together with his DYING SPEECH at the PLACE of EXECUTION.

With ſeveral other Things worthy the Obſervation of YOUNG PEOPLE.

London, Printed in Aldermary Church-Yard, Bow-Lane.

THE

Bloody Tragedy.

AT Oborn, in the county of *Bedford* lived one Mr. Gill, a very honeſt man, and of a conſiderable fortune, gained by his and his wife's induſtry, having only one ſon, of which the mother was extremely fond, giving him in his childiſh years ſuch liberties, that, growing up, he became very headſtrong and wilful; and ſeeing their error in their indulgence, they laboured with good advice, and gentle means, to bring him back to the obedience he had caſt off towards them, and from the ill courſes he ſo frequently took, in breaking the Sabbath, and often getting drunk in lewd company; but, to their hearts great grief and ſorrow, he grew more obſtinate, and from ſmaller ſins he betook himſelf to greater, being enticed thereto by a debauched lewd woman, whom he got acquainted with at a fair; on whoſe baſe luſt he ſo doated, that ſhe perſuaded him often to rob his parents to ſupply her extravagancies, though they were liberally handed toward him; in hopes, that wearied by exceſs of pleaſure, he might at length ſee his youthful follies, and become a ſober youth.

By keeping this and other baſe women company, he was ſo plunged in filthineſs, that curſing and ſweating came habitual to him; and in his drunken fits he pretended oftentimes to converſe with the Devil, who promiſed to do great things for him, if he would be ruled by him, and give himſelf up to his will and pleaſure; nor could the pious advice and admonition of the miniſters, and other good people work upon him, to make him leave off his wicked courſes.

For one night, having been in bad company, (eſpecially of lewd women) ſurfeiting in drunkenneſs, he came home, ſwearing and curſing at a prodigious rate, requiring money of his ſorrowful parents, who laboured to pacify him with good words, entreating him to go to bed, and ſleep that night, and if it appeared in the morning when he awaked, that he wanted money, he ſhould have it.

This ſeemingly ſatisfied him, and after many imprecations, he went to bed, but could not reſt, but kept awake till all the family was in bed.—Then the Devil put it into his head, to riſe and murder them; that ſo he might ſupply himſelf with what money and plate was in the houſe.

Theſe good people in the fatal hour left open the door of their chamber, little thinking that they nouriſhed a viper in their boſom to ſting them to death.

About midnight this graceleſs ſon, being come a little to himſelf, got up with a murmuring mind

and getting ſoftly into the bed-chamber of his parents, drew a large knife out of his ſheath, and cut his aged father and mother's throats. After which deſparate wickedneſs he remembered the

maid ſervant, who lay in the loft above, and that ſhe might not come as a witneſs againſt him, he went ſoftly up, and finding her aſleep, raviſhed her, and then cut her throat from ear to ear.

Then muſing upon the horrid villainies he had committed, the Devil put it in his head to ſet the houſe on fire, when he had plundered what he thought fit, that the dead bodies being conſumed, it might be thought to have been by accident, and he not be ſuſpected. But God never ſuffers ſuch monſters in wickedneſs to go unpuniſhed, even in this world, brought the diſcovery to light.

For tho' he denied to have been at home that night, and ſeemed wonderfully ſorry at the ſurprizing misfortune, as he termed it, yet living very profuſely, and having ſpent all his money, he was forced to ſell the plate he had ſtolen, which

being ſtopped, upon examination he confeſſed the fact. Upon which he was ſent to jail, where he remained very ſorrowful; and he affirms the ghoſts of the murdered perſons appeared to him in frightful ſhapes, pointing to their ghaſtly wounds, and in a threatning manner ſummoning him to appear at the dreadful tribunal of Almighty God, to anſwer for their innocent blood, that cried for vengeance againſt him.

After he had ſome time lain in this ſorrowful condition, his trial came on; when he pleaded guilty to his indictment, ſaying, his youthful ſins had brought this heavy judgment upon him, declaring before his ſentence he deſired to die, as not being fit to live. The court exhorted him to a ſerious repentance of his ſins, and to pray to God to deliver his ſoul from guiltineſs. He promiſed to do what in him lay. And a miniſter was ordered to attend him, and give him ghoſtly conſolation, the ſhort remainder of the time he had to live.

Sentence of death being paſſed upon him, he was ordered to be hanged in chains, as a terrible example to other ungrateful wretches. And four days after he was brought forth to execution, wringing his hands and weeping bitterly; begging of thoſe who were ſpectators, to pray earneſtly to God to have mercy upon his ſoul, and enable him to undergo the bitter pains of death. When he came to the fatal place of execution, the

and getting ſoftly into the bed-chamber of his parents, drew a large knife out of his ſheath, and cut his aged father and mother's throats. After which deſparate wickedneſs he remembered the

maid ſervant, who lay in the loft above, and that ſhe might not come as a witneſs againſt him, he went ſoftly up, and finding her aſleep, raviſhed her, and then cut her throat from ear to ear.

Then muſing upon the horrid villainies he had committed, the Devil put it in his head to ſet the houſe on fire, when he had plundered what he thought fit, that the dead bodies being conſumed, it might be thought to have been by accident, and he not be ſuſpected. But God never ſuffers ſuch monſters in wickedneſs to go unpuniſhed, even in this world, brought the diſcovery to light.

For tho' he denied to have been at home that night, and ſeemed wonderfully ſorry at the ſurprizing misfortune, as he termed it, yet living very profuſely, and having ſpent all his money, he was forced to ſell the plate he had ſtolen, which

being ſtopped, upon examination he confeſſed the fact. Upon which he was ſent to jail, where he remained very ſorrowful; and he affirms the ghoſts of the murdered perſons appeared to him in frightful ſhapes, pointing to their ghaſtly wounds, and in a threatning manner ſummoning him to appear at the dreadful tribunal of Almighty God, to anſwer for their innocent blood, that cried for vengeance againſt him.

After he had ſome time lain in this ſorrowful condition, his trial came on; when he pleaded guilty to his indictment, ſaying, his youthful ſins had brought this heavy judgment upon him, declaring before his ſentence he deſired to die, as not being fit to live. The court exhorted him to a ſerious repentance of his ſins, and to pray to God to deliver his ſoul from guiltineſs. He promiſed to do what in him lay. And a miniſter was ordered to attend him, and give him ghoſtly conſolation, the ſhort remainder of the time he had to live.

Sentence of death being paſſed upon him, he was ordered to be hanged in chains, as a terrible example to other ungrateful wretches. And four days after he was brought forth to execution, wringing his hands and weeping bitterly; begging of thoſe who were ſpectators, to pray earneſtly to God to have mercy upon his ſoul, and enable him to undergo the bitter pains of death. When he came to the fatal place of execution, the

minister who had often visited him in prison, attended there to comfort him in his passage out of the world, and to do him the last good office, in admonishing him to a serious repentance in praying with him.

At the place of execution he made the following speech.

Good People,

I Beseech you to take warning by my fall; beware of the enemy of your souls, who goes about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. In my infancy I was brought up in the way of virtue; but listening to his temptations, I soon fell away, as I grew to riper years, not regarding God's holy word, but wilfully breaking the sabbath, delighting more to be in an alehouse with ill company than at church. My parents, indeed, laboured to persuade me from it; but to them I lent a deaf ear, for which I am heartily sorry. And being disobedient to my parents, I fell to lustful desires; and thro' the temptations of lewd women I grew extravagant, and often robbed my father to satisfy their insatiable craving; till, at last, the Devil getting the power over me, I committed those horrid murders for which my heart bleeds within me. And then, taking what I thought fit, I set the house on fire, in hopes to prevent discovery; but God, who sees all secrets, has brought me to be punished open-

ly; yet, I hope, through true penitence, and ſenſe of my ſins, he will, at this laſt caſt, have mercy upon my poor precious and immortal ſoul. And ſo, deſiring you all, young and old, to reſtrain from drunkenneſs, ſabbath-breaking, and whoredom, I intreat your prayers to Almighty God for me; by whoſe mercies, through the blood of Chriſt, I hope to find eternal comfort.

Here he burſt into tears, adviſing all young people to beware of ſabbath-breaking, which had been the firſt ſtep to his ruin; alſo of drunkenneſs, ſwearing, and whoredom, as they love their peace here, and their welfare hereafter, for this had brought him to a ſhameful and untimely end, and would do the like by them, if they avoided them not. Then the miniſter prayed with him as follows.

O Eternal and merciful Lord, look down, we beſeech thee, in the multitude of thy mercies upon this thy ſervant, at whoſe ſins thou art juſtly diſpleaſed. O let him not caſt away his hopes in thee, nor place it any where elſe: be with him in the hour of death, and be his exceeding comfort; waſh his ſin-ſick ſoul from the ſin of blood guiltneſs, in the precious blood of the Lord Jeſus: So that, this painful life ended, as he departs from hence thou mayſt receive him into the arms of thy mercy through the merits and mediation of our Redeemer, Jeſus Chriſt. Amen.

After this he prayed with the miniſter, ſaying the Lord's Prayer and Creed, ſinging a penitential pſalm, and then prayed for himſelf. After having thus commended his ſpirit into the hands of his merciful Creator, he was turned off, cauſing many wet eyes. And being cut down, he was hanged in chains, as a ſad monument to all ungrateful wretches.

Prov.

The eye that mocketh his father, and deſpiſeth the inſtructions of his mother, the ravens of the valley ſhall pick it out, and the young eagles ſhall eat it.

At the day appointed for the ſermon to be preached before the ſaid malefactor, the pſalms read were the 6th, 9th, and 5th; the leſſons were Numbers 25, beginning at he 4th verſe, 1 Tim. 1.

10 JU 52

FINIS.